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LONDON metro®

Wednesday's Jackpot
$11,000,000 estimated
THE NEW LOTTO 649
PLUS A GUARANTEED $1 MILLION PRIZE DRAW
NEWS WORTH SHARING.

BELL RUNG, 'NO REGRETS'

London Knights' defenceman Zach Bell watches his teammates practise at Budweiser Gardens after breaking his right fibula in a playoff game against Windsor last Thursday. He's likely sidelined for the season. Metro caught up with him Monday. Story on page 14. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

This is not an April Fool's joke: Candidate

Stephen Turner wants to meet at Billy T's, the epicentre of the ombudsman probe, to talk about accountability PAGE 2

Play ball! ... Blue Jays battered, Reyes injured

T.O. loses season opener to the Rays, star shortstop hurt after one at-bat PAGE 14

LHSC to cut roughly 100 jobs

Balancing the budget. Decision comes as a result of funding shortfall, increased cost, CEO says

By the numbers

- **$37.2M:** Cost reductions from 2014-15 fiscal budget
- **27:** Reduction of full-time equivalent nursing positions through attrition and other measures
- **41:** Cleaning positions reduced in non-patient areas

London Health Sciences Centre is cutting nursing and other jobs through attrition as it slashes more than $37 million from its $1.1-billion 2014-15 fiscal budget.

Altogether, a reduction of approximately 107 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, including 27 in nursing, is planned over the course of the year, officials announced Monday. An expected cash shortfall from the provincial government and increasing costs led to the decisions, they said.

Acting LHSC president and CEO Murray Glendining said the staffing cuts and other planned efficiency measures (planned across the board) won't affect patient care.

"If you look at a hospital like London Health Sciences, there's about a seven per cent turnover every year, so we'll accommodate all of this through attrition," he said. "We're not anticipating having to lay anyone off."

Glendining stressed that while $37 million sounds like a lot of money, in the perspective of the hospital's budget, it works out to about three per cent.

"It's a relatively low percentage across the board.... We've been very thoughtful as to where the cuts are being made," he noted, adding that the hospital may be able to operate more efficiently with a different staffing schedule.

"We're constantly working with our peers across the province and where they have a model or an idea that's working well and we can learn from it, we learn from them and vice versa," he said.

Ontario Nurses' Association vice-president Vicki McKenna argued that this is no time to shed jobs when the hospital is consistently running at more than 100 per cent occupancy.

"That means more staff, not less," she said. "The reality is that for every position they drop, that's about 2,000 hours of nursing care, no matter how you cut it. You just don't try things out and see where the chips fall."

By law, all Ontario hospitals must balance their budget.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

FANSHAWE COLLEGE
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
School of Graduate and Professional Studies
OPEN HOUSE
Thursday, May 15th, 2014
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Fanshawe College - Centre for Digital and Performance Arts
137 Dundas St. London, Ontario N6A 1E9
Contact us to learn more about our programs and other career development opportunities.
t. 519-452-4277 e. advising@fanshawec.ca fanshawec.ca/gradstudies

NEWS 1

Votes are in. City chooses who'll speak for London's youth

The 14 members of the London Youth Advisory Council have been chosen.

People across the city had a week to vote online for the representatives, who will speak for young people at city hall.

For the first time, the annual election was organized along the same boundaries as city council wards. The level of engagement varied from area to area, although about 1,900 votes were cast citywide, council leaders said.

In east London's Ward 1, for example, only 17 people voted. But north London's Ward 6, with a large student population, had a hotly contested race between three candidates, and a total of 472 votes.

There's still a transition to be made between the current youth advisory council and the newly elected one, with a meeting scheduled April 15 at 5:30 p.m. at city hall.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

The new youth councillors:

- **Ward 1:** Cedric Richards
- **Ward 2:** Ashley Veri
- **Ward 3:** Meaghan Bennett
- **Ward 4:** Nicole Worozbyt
- **Ward 5:** Charles Muriithi
- **Ward 6:** Dale Inverarity
- **Ward 7:** Melissa Zuleta Jiménez
- **Ward 8:** Scott Wilkinson
- **Ward 9:** Ali Alkhadhimi
- **Ward 10:** Anooshae Janmohammad
- **Ward 11:** Cameron Arksey
- **Ward 12:** Wadhah Baobaid
- **Ward 13:** Olivia Smith Rodrigues
- **Ward 14:** Sienna Jae Taylor

City hall candidate Stephen Turner refuses to take campaign donations from developers, unions or corporations. CONTRIBUTED

Let's talk clean politics: Meet me in the back room

Billy T's. Stephen Turner says site of infamous meeting an apt venue to discuss council accountability

MIKE DONACHIE
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Stephen Turner has a point to make, and this isn't an April Fool's joke.

The city hall candidate has chosen what might be the most infamous room in London municipal politics to have a meeting about the future of council.

He's booked the back room at Billy T's, the epicentre of an ombudsman investigation that caused so much trouble for Mayor Joe Fontana and six councillors, for a public talk about — what else? — accountability.

"I want to use Billy T's as a bit of a backdrop to illustrate that this next term of council really needs to address issues of accountability," said Turner.

"We need to restore public confidence in city hall. It's the level of government that provides the most direct service to citizens.

"If there's no confidence in that level of government, then the service that flows from that is severely impaired."

Turner lists several incidents he believes undermined public confidence in council.

Foremost among them was the February 2013 meeting in Billy T's back room.

Although the seven politicians involved continue to insist the meeting was not planned, Ontario Ombudsman Andre Marin ruled it was illegal because city business was discussed in private.

Then there was the decision by city council to pick up the $97,000 tab for legal fees incurred by council members as part of Marin's investigation. The same council members took part in a vote awarding them the money.

Turner also pointed to the mayor's decision to vote on his own censure.

Even the perception of possible wrongdoing can undermine the public trust, Turner said.

That's behind his refusal to take campaign donations from developers, unions or corporations, because city council makes decisions that directly affect those potential donors.

So how's he doing for donations?

"I've done really well," he said.

Turner's turn

- Stephen Turner will lead a discussion on city hall accountability Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at Billy T's Tap and Grill (1600 Highbury Rd. N.). It's open to the public and will last about an hour.
- Turner is running in Ward 11, where the incumbent councillor is Denise Brown. Also running are Clive Jenkins and Menno Meijer.

Sher defence takes aim at audio evidence

A London doctor at the centre of a terrorism trial should not be found guilty of conspiring to facilitate violent jihad because he didn't actually know what the alleged conspiracy was, a defence lawyer said Monday in closing arguments.

Dr. Khurram Sher was arrested in 2010 after RCMP spied on him and two alleged co-conspirators for months.

The 31-year-old pleaded not guilty to conspiring to facilitate terrorist activity at the onset of the trial in Ottawa in February.

His lawyer, Michael Edelson, argued the Crown has failed to prove there was, in fact, a specific conspiracy hatched between the three men when they met over dinner in an Ottawa apartment on July 20, 2010. Sher never once vocalized an agreement he would partake in a purported conspiracy in the 70-minute conversation, Edelson said.

"That kind of discussion never takes place," the lawyer said to Justice Charles Hackland, the presiding judge. "This is a freewheeling discussion about this and that."

Part of the audio probe — the crux of the Crown's case — was played in court and touched on a potential attack on CFB Trenton. Crown prosecutor Jason Wakely argued earlier in the trial that Sher's voice could be heard saying he could make a bomb.

The defence takes issue with several aspects of the July probe, specifically its reliability, because voices are sometimes muffled and the men often speak over each other. It's being used merely to imply guilt by association, Edelson charged.

Edelson's closing arguments will continue Thursday.

JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

Dr. Khurram Sher THE CANADIAN PRESS

Medical technology.
Experts out to help a billion people

London's medical technology leaders have some big numbers in mind, and they promise it's all coming soon.

"One billion people" will benefit from the London Medical Innovation and Commercialization Network, (LMICN), its leaders told a city hall committee in an update Monday.

"This is about creating something that's real and lasting," said Dan Ross of the London Health Sciences Centre, who was speaking to the investment and economic prosperity committee on behalf of the new network.

The idea was revealed last fall and since then, it's been gathering speed. Council members were told Monday that its basic structure is in place and an application for federal development funding has already been made. The city has agreed to provide $1 million per year for 10 years.

There are now more details available. The LMICN heads are promising a series of "pillars" will be established across the city, creating centres of excellence for medical research.

The first pillar is proposed for Western Discovery Park, near Western University, and will focus on bio-medical devices and imaging, musculoskeletal and brain health research, and more.

It will create 400 long-term jobs, the committee heard, and be worth $40 million per year to London's economy. The construction will be worth $60 million. Overall, the project has a $124-million budget. Its discoveries will benefit a billion people worldwide, including 20 million Canadians, LMICN's leaders said.

And the plan is to get shovels in the ground by fall 2014.

Council members praised the project, with Coun. Matt Brown commenting: "It's simply outstanding what we can accomplish when we are all pulling in the same direction." **MIKE DONACHIE/METRO**

Dan Ross of the London Health Sciences Centre, which is a leading force in the project. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Marketing fund.
Voluntary hotel-rooms levy to be encouraged

City council was very careful when talking about a potential hotel-rooms levy.

The investment and economic prosperity committee was told that Tourism London is making good progress on a program that would be taken up voluntarily by hotels.

Let's stress that: The city can't impose a levy.

The proceeds would go to a "destination marketing fund" to help the city bring in big events like the world figure skating championships.

The committee voted in favour of encouraging agreement in the hotel industry, despite concerns from Coun. Paul Van Meerbergen that it could discourage people from coming to London. **MIKE DONACHIE/METRO**

Health unit

Two more flu deaths reported

Two more people have died of the flu as the bug takes another punch at the London area.

The Middlesex-London Health Unit's latest flu report shows 23 new cases were confirmed between March 24 and Sunday — an uptick from the eight cases confirmed in the previous week.

Since Sept. 1, 252 flu cases have been recorded in the area, with nine deaths.

The health unit has been able to track the immunization status for 220 people out of the total confirmed cases.

Nearly 78 per cent of the people did not get a flu shot, the unit says. **METRO**

Poet Inali Barger is among those who will perform this month in the London Poetry Slam finals and at city hall today. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Poet takes message to city council

London Poetry Slam.
Top spoken-word artist heads to local, national finals

MIKE DONACHIE
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London's politicians are about to hear a message about their place in the universe.

Poet Inali Barger is taking her powerful words to city hall and will speak to the full council Tuesday.

"How can I here allow myself to feel unworthy?"

It's a partial quote from Barger's creation, The Universe Poem, which she will deliver to council as it holds its regular meeting. Only humans can create poetry, she says, among all of the universe's atoms, so we should feel special.

Barger will be at city hall to make sure everyone knows about the finals of London Poetry Slam, which takes place on April 13. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the event starts at 7 p.m.

Fellow poet Tom Cull, from Poetry London, will also take part in Barger's initiative at council chambers.

Barger, 23, is one of 10 poets competing in the finals. She spends much of the rest of her time acting as poet laureate for the mental health nonprofit Mind Your Mind.

"It's all about taking down mental health stigma, and youth engagement," she said. "All the programs we create are in partnership with youth. It keeps Mind Your Mind relevant."

Her speciality is to take the language of two projects or organizations — which can sometimes involve the same terms with different meanings — and combine them into poetry to help them communicate.

It's about "a poem as a bridge," she added.

A poet, and they know it

- The finals of London Poetry Slam take place at the Palace Theatre (710 Dundas St.) on April 13.
- Performing are Ted O., Inali Barger, Alisha Tax, Ceilidhe Miller, Emma Blue, Holly Painter, Jenny Jay, Rachel Rensby, Summer Hicks and Jake Martell.
- The winners will form a team to travel to the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word in Vancouver later this year.

Unifor sets sights on plants in Woodstock, Cambridge

The Unifor labour union is seeking to represent more than 6,500 workers at Toyota's three auto plants in Woodstock and Cambridge.

The union says it is filing an application with the Ontario Labour Relations Board to become the bargaining agent at Toyota Canada, and it expects its workers to vote in favour of unionization next week.

Jerry Dias, Unifor national president, declined to say how many of the workers had signed union cards to date, but said Unifor had been sought out by the Toyota employees and had "significant support."

"This is really about providing the type of support that's necessary to build a better assembly plant because when workers are feeling comfortable in their work environment, and the workplace is modified for them as opposed to them having to be modified for the workplace, then you end up with a much more productive workforce," he said.

Top concerns for Toyota workers include wages, pensions and workplace issues, Dias added, noting that if the certification is successful, Unifor would go into bargaining immediately.

If the effort succeeds, these would be the first Toyota plants in North America to become unionized. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

The Great Lakes Blues Society is planning a big party on Friday to honour the 60th birthday of Brian Mortimer, a well-known face in local music circles. COURTESY ROSS MORTIMER/LOUD PHOTOGRAPHY

Blues bash to honour music mogul's 60th

Brian Mortimer. Great Blues Society to throw celebration Friday at the London Music Hall

SCOTT TAYLOR
scott.taylor@metronews.ca

As the name Hunter is synonymous with London hockey, the name Brian Mortimer has been music to the ears of thousands of London musicians — and their fans — for more than 30 years.

Mortimer reckons he's been responsible for upward of 15,000 shows over the years, but rarely has a show ever been responsible to him.

That'll change Friday at the London Music Hall, when the Great Lakes Blues Society presents the Nick Moss Band, John Primer and the Real Deal and Chuckee Zehr live to celebrate Mortz's 60th birthday.

For those Londoners who can close their eyes and imagine themselves in the old Fire Hall enjoying a Saturday afternoon jam session, he's a special guy.

Party guy

"I always like to have parties. That's my reputation, and I earned it."
Brian Mortimer, CEO of Karma Productions

"There will be a lot of blues fans there because it'll be a great show, and there will be a lot of my friends and family because, quite frankly, I'm well known throughout the city," said Mortimer, president of Karma Productions. "I'm really happy about it because I always like to have parties. That's my reputation, and I earned it."

Mortimer called those Saturday afternoon jams at the Fire Hall legendary. That's why, even years later, the recent Fire Hall reunion show at the London Music Hall packed them in.

"Twenty-four years after we closed, I got 700 people for the most recent reunion," he said.

He fell into music promotion and management somewhat by accident, when he realized he wasn't going to be the next big thing himself.

"I was a musician but a poor one. No sense of rhythm and tone deaf, but I loved music and wanted to be part of it," he said. "So I got involved as a buyer, a promoter, a manager and an agent when I was 20 years old."

The rest, as they say, is history.

Mortz's 60th

The party is on Friday at the London Music Hall (185 Queen's Ave.).

- Doors open at 7 p.m.
- Tickets are $20 and $30.
- Check the website greatlakesbluessociety.com for details.

Tech expert in gas-plant scandal had contract with Liberals until weekend

An outside tech expert who police allege was given access to computers in the premier's office last year had a contract with the Liberal party that was just cancelled on the weekend, Premier Kathleen Wynne confirmed Monday.

Computer expert Peter Faist also had a contract with the Liberal caucus bureau at Queen's Park, but that ended when former premier Dalton McGuinty left office, Wynne told reporters at an unrelated event in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

"He did not provide any services to the Liberal caucus services after I came into office," she said. "He did provide some services to the Liberal party (but) once we discovered that he was part of the issues surrounding the allegations ... his services were terminated as of Sunday."

Provincial police, who are investigating the deletion of government emails related to the Liberals' cancellation of two gas plants, alleged in court documents that Faist was given access by David Livingston, McGuinty's former chief of staff.

The court documents, released last Thursday, also allege that Livingston sought access to the government computers to "wipe clean" the computers' hard drives.

Expert's contract

"He was doing some routine work for the Liberal caucus bureau ... and also had a contract with the Ontario Liberal party which, as I say, has been terminated." John Milloy, government house leader

The allegations have not been proven in court.

The Progressive Conservatives said Wynne's admission added weight to their claim that she was in charge early last February when the hard drives were apparently wiped clean, even though she wasn't officially sworn in as premier until Feb. 11.

"It is very clear that the mastermind behind wiping all those hard drives was ... under the employment of Kathleen Wynne," said PC critic Lisa MacLeod.

The Liberals accused the Conservatives of "dirty politics" by linking Wynne to the latest police allegations.

The government said Faist's IT company billed the Liberal caucus $159,727 between June 2010 and January 2013 and also billed the Liberal Party of Ontario about $60,000 for IT maintenance between March 2011 and last Sunday.

Wynne sent an open letter Sunday demanding that PC Leader Tim Hudak withdraw allegations that she "possibly ordered the destruction of documents."

A formal cease-and-desist letter from Wynne's lawyer was delivered to Hudak on Monday afternoon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Computer expert Peter Faist TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Quebec election. Rare clause will keep values charter alive, Marois says

Parti Québécois Leader Pauline Marois is prepared to invoke the rarely used notwithstanding clause to ensure her party's controversial secular charter is adopted.

Marois said Monday she will reintroduce the values charter project as it currently stands if her party forms a majority government after next Monday's Quebec election.

And after stating for months the government was confident the secular charter could withstand any judicial challenge, Marois threatened to use the notwithstanding clause to immediately ward off the possibility of any legal threat.

The clause is enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and allows Parliament or provinces to override the rights charter in order to adopt legislation. The exemption lasts five years.

PQ leader Pauline Marois at a news conference in Trois-Rivieres, Que.
PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Marois said the clause would simply be integrated into the values charter. The proposed legislation would ban all public-sector employees from displaying or wearing religious symbols such as the hijab or the kippa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grain backlog. CN, grain elevator companies play the blame game

Canadian National Railway says it is making progress to meet the government's target of increased grain shipments, but the railway drew a rebuke from Western Canadian grain elevator companies after calling on them to "step up" their own performances.

"The fact that CN is making this comment is just an attempt to deflect attention from the real issue," said Wade Sobkowich, executive director of the Western Grain Elevator Association.

He said the main challenge is getting enough capacity and receiving cars throughout the week "appropriately apportioned" to the country's four grain delivery corridors — Western Canada, Thunder Bay, the United States and Eastern Canada.

"It doesn't make sense that they're asking us to do a better job when we're already performing," he said in an interview. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Supply and demand

The federal government passed an order-in-council on March 7 that imposes daily fines of up to $100,000 on CN and rival CP should they fail to double the volume of grain shipments.

F-word kerfuffle

Trudeau cusses, PMO fusses

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau says he got "a talking to" from his wife for using the F-word in public, but he won't take any criticism from the Harper government.

Trudeau dropped the F-bomb over the weekend while speaking at a charity boxing match in Gatineau, Que.

The Prime Minister's Office said it was just another example of Trudeau's "lack of judgment."

The Liberal leader says he let his "emotions run a little hot" while speaking at the match. But Trudeau says the Harper government is hardly in a position to criticize anyone over judgment when it is dealing with issues like the Senate spending scandal.

He told a cheering crowd Saturday night that there was no experience like stepping into the boxing ring, adding that "your name, your fortune, your intelligence, your beauty, none of that (expletive) matters." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Australian PM vows to continue search 'for quite some time'

Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3 Orion's captain, Wing Commander Rob Shearer, scans the southern Indian Ocean Monday while looking for evidence of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370. Although it has been slow, difficult and frustrating so far, the search for the plane is nowhere near the point of being scaled back, Australia's prime minister pledged Monday. The three-week hunt has turned up no signs of the Boeing 777, which vanished March 8 with 239 people bound for Beijing from Kuala Lumpur. ROB GRIFFITH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia sees 'virtue' of pact, Baird says

Tough diplomacy. After Crimea debacle, expert warns Canada should have its eye on Arctic claims

Quoted

"If they've been kicked out of the G8 and humiliated, are they going to keep playing by the rules of the international community?"

Rob Huebert, University of Calgary defence expert on Russia's interests in the Far North

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says he hopes Russia has seen the "virtue" of diplomacy to resolve the crisis in Ukraine, while a defence expert warns that Canada should be paying more attention to Russia's claims in the Arctic.

Baird, speaking in Chisinau, Moldova, sounded hopeful about talks between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Paris, aimed at diffusing tension in eastern Europe.

"We believe that Russia has apparently now seen the virtue of a diplomatic pact and equivalent steps in positive action," Baird said at a joint news conference with Moldova's foreign minister.

"Frankly speaking, the actions of the Russian Federation will speak more loudly than its words."

He again called on Moscow to withdraw troops from Crimea and along the borders of eastern Ukraine.

Russia laid out a tough set of conditions for a diplomatic settlement, proposals that would radically alter the way Ukraine is governed and administered by making regions more autonomous.

Baird met with a series of senior government ministers in Moldova, a country squeezed between Ukraine and Romania, and assured them Canada strongly believes in the country's territorial integrity.

But defence expert Rob Huebert of the University of Calgary says the Harper government should be paying closer attention to Canada's own yet-to-be-defined border with Russia in the Arctic.

His warning comes after a published report in Moscow last week saying further militarization in the Arctic that would challenge Russia's preeminence in the region is a "red line" that the West dare not cross.

Canada and Russia have competing interests in the Far North, especially in resource development. The stakes were raised when Prime Minister Stephen Harper last year ordered that Ottawa's presentation to a United Nations panel on boundaries in the Arctic be updated to include a claim to the North Pole.

Although the two nations — as well as several other Arctic countries — are engaged in an international process, Huebert said Putin's recent annexation of Crimea in defiance of international law raises the question of whether Russia would respect a border decision that doesn't go in its favour.

"You have an increasingly isolated Russia that has identified the Arctic region as one of their core strategic interests," said Huebert.

"You have to ask the question: If they've been kicked out of the G8 and humiliated, are they going to keep playing by the rules of the international community if they think this is costing them substantial resources?"

The take-away from the Ukraine crisis is that Russia must be taken seriously and as a consequence, he says, the Harper government should take a closer look at its own military plans in the Arctic. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird
FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Medical marijuana. Future of pot hazy as feds launch legal challenge

The federal government will contest an injunction that allows people to continue to grow medical marijuana while a full legal challenge plays out in the courts.

It is the latest salvo in a series of legal actions over how the government administers its medical pot program.

Earlier this month, Federal Court Judge Michael Manson ruled that patients currently licensed to grow their own marijuana would be permitted to produce the drug even after new regulations banning the practice take effect Tuesday.

The judge granted an application from medical marijuana patients seeking a temporary injunction to preserve the status quo until their constitutional challenge of the new system could be heard.

The government said Monday it will ask the Federal Court of Appeal to overturn the injunction.

A legal medical marijuana facility in B.C. March 21. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Under the existing federal program, thousands of people have licences to cultivate marijuana for personal use to help ease painful symptoms of conditions such as diabetes and multiple sclerosis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

UN orders a stop to scenes like this

A minke whale is unloaded at a port after a whaling for scientific purposes in Kushiro, in the northernmost main island of Hokkaido in September 2013. The International Court of Justice on Monday ordered a temporary halt to Japan's Antarctic whaling program, ruling that it is not for scientific purposes as the Japanese had claimed. In hopes of ending whaling in the icy Southern Ocean, Australia sued Japan at the UN's highest court for resolving disputes between nations. KYODO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Europe. Consumer rights group joins antitrust complaint against Google

Europe's leading consumer rights advocacy group has joined an antitrust complaint against Google because it considers the display of some search results biased.

The BEUC will join an existing group of companies in trying to get Google to change the way it displays its search results.

The EU Commission has been assessing the case for three years and declined to say whether the new complaint might delay a settlement. In February, it accepted Google Inc.'s concessions to settle allegations, suggesting the case might close within months.

BEUC says the changes Google proposes would harm consumers as they would allow it to "stack its search results as suits itself."

In its complaint Monday, BEUC says users are given a false impression that search results are impartial, especially for price comparisons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is there no such thing as a new idea?

R&D. Judges must decide if Mark Twain was right when he argued we just make 'new and curious combinations' of existing ideas

Is it too easy for high-tech companies to patent inventions that are not really new, but simply old ideas blended with computer wizardry?

The Supreme Court in the U.S. wrestled with that question Monday as justices considered making it tougher for the government to issue patents for computer software.

The outcome could send tremors through an industry that touches virtually every sector of the economy, from gadgets on smartphones to advances in anti-lock brakes.

The issue has divided the nation's technology giants, with companies like Microsoft Corp. and IBM warning that new restrictions could nullify thousands of existing patents that are the product of billions in research and development. On the other side, firms including Google, Facebook and Netflix say the free flow of software patents has become a "plague" on the industry, blocking companies from promoting innovation.

The justices weighed arguments in a case involving Alice Corp., an Australian financial company that in the 1990s patented a computer program to reduce the risk in financial transactions. The software allows a neutral third party to make sure all parties to a trade have lived up to their obligations.

CLS Bank International challenged the patent as invalid, arguing that Alice merely took a concept that's been around since ancient times and programmed it to run through a computer.

A decision is expected by June.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seacrest out ... for now

BlackBerry has won a preliminary injunction barring sales of a Typo Products LLC iPhone keyboard attachment it claims infringes on two of its patents.

- A judge said BlackBerry had a "likelihood" of proving the $99 US physical keyboard, which can be clipped to some versions of Apple Inc.'s touch screen iPhone 5, violates its intellectual property rights.
- Los Angeles-based Typo, co-founded by entrepreneur Laurence Hallier and American Idol host Ryan Seacrest, said it plans to appeal the decision.

First-class letters

Through rain, sleet and snow ... for a buck a stamp

The cost of mailing a first-class letter within Canada went up Monday — by 35 per cent.

Canada Post is raising the price of a stamp to 85 cents, up from 63 cents.

While the new price applies when buying stamps in bulk, it will cost $1 to buy a single first-class stamp.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 90.46¢ (+0.04¢)

TSX 14,335.31 (+74.59)

OIL $101.58 US (-$0.09)

GOLD $1,283.80 US (-$10.50)

Natural gas: $4.37 US (-$0.11)
Dow Jones: 16,457.66 (+ 134.60)

Don't worry, you'll win just as many cruises

The country's communications regulator is hanging up on telemarketers.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission says it will maintain the rules that prevent automated calling devices from contacting people who don't want the calls.

The Canadian Marketing Association had wanted the rules eased so businesses with existing customer relationships could make automated calls to people without having their express consent.

But the CRTC says the existing rules, designed to reduce undue inconvenience to Canadians, will stand.

The regulator has also tightened the rules, giving telemarketers 14 days to remove numbers from their calling lists when Canadians request to be placed on a business's internal do-not-call list.

The grace period used to be 31 days.

As well, telemarketers using automated calling devices will be required to say upfront why they're calling.

Telemarketers will also have to make sure the contact information provided during a call remains valid for a minimum of 60 days.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IS THIS A SICK POTTY JOKE?

SHE SAYS

Jessica Napier
metronews.ca

How do you flush a toilet?

You might think this question has a pretty obvious answer, but a recent discussion with some friends of mine has left me questioning everything I thought I knew about bathroom etiquette. It would seem that it's now standard practice to use your foot to flush the toilet when using a public washroom.

Am I the only person who didn't get the Health Canada memo on this new procedure? I had no idea that we were no longer using our hands to perform this perfunctory task.

Apparently this foot-flushing technique isn't just the invention of a neurotic minority. A 2013 study found that 64 per cent of North Americans operate the toilet flusher with their shoe-clad foot in order to avoid coming into contact with germs in public restrooms.

I can't understand why North Americans are so precious when it comes to personal hygiene. I happen to have an incredibly strong immune system in spite of my daily skin-to-toilet contact. My resilience probably has a lot to do with my complete indifference towards germs, a carefree attitude that I inherited from my father who is the type of man who will marinate a raw chicken breast with his bare hands and then lick the BBQ sauce off his fingertips.

Despite all the fearmongering out there, I just can't bring myself to be afraid of something I can't see. I'm a firm believer in the five-second rule (or even the two-minute rule) and will gladly share a beverage with another person as long as we're on a first-name basis. I ride public transit, double-dip my chips and once ate a chocolate Easter bunny out of the garbage (it was partially wrapped, in my defence).

I'm not completely uncivilized of course. If someone offers me hand sanitizer I will use it because I know that is the polite thing to do and I adhere to the government-mandated arm-sneeze to protect all the anxious worrywarts out there.

Germs? Who needs 'em

Despite all the fearmongering out there, I just can't bring myself to be afraid of something I can't see.

It's actually these extremists— those who obsessively clean their countertops with pungent antibacterial wipes and scrub their hands like they're prepping for surgery — who seem to get struck down by the common cold so frequently. I assume their bodies are having bad reactions to all the antiseptic fumes and high levels of neuroses.

I know there's nothing glamorous about using a public bathroom, but karate kicking a toilet to avoid touching it with your hands just seems outrageously paranoid to me. If you're trying to avoid all of the infinitesimal microorganisms that are out there just waiting to latch onto you, you're just going to worry yourself sick.

Follow Jessica Napier on Twitter @MetroSheSays

ZOOM

Art that tests the waters

COURTESY JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR

Sub-aquatic museum

For the past five years, British sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor has transformed seabeds off Mexico and Grenada into underwater art sites. Taylor, 39, sculpts life-size statues, then submerges them at depths of nine metres. His work is featured in a new book The Underwater Museum, published by Chronicle Books. METRO

Q & A with Taylor

How did you come up with the underwater sculpture?
I started to explore how I could adopt a more conservationist approach in my sculpture. Being a diver and watching how we are losing swathes of coral reefs, I felt inspired to take action. An artificial reef — where marine life (and tourists) gravitate towards objects — seemed the perfect way for art to help the planet.

Help? How exactly?
The reef encourages fish and coral to live and grow there, while the human statues are linked to the concept of climate change. This art-meets-reef — a sort of visual regeneration – can instill a sense of hope and recovery.

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MetroTube

Howls in the Himalayas

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

For most of the country, spring made its long-awaited debut in the past couple weeks — hang in there, Atlantic Canada.

Which, of course, means that all dreary winter dreaming about warm exotic places is easing a bit. Though, as that mental fog lifts we find ourselves regretting the hastily booked Treacherous Himalayan Roads Tour.

Scan this photo of the Himalayas to watch the video of some courageous travellers who skirt the mountain cliff. GETTY IMAGES

metro

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See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to see a photo gallery of Emma Watson from her start in Harry Potter to Noah.

DVD review

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues

Director. Adam McKay

Stars. Will Ferrell, Steve Carell, Paul Rudd

I quote Brian Fantana's promise about Sex Panther cologne: "60 per cent of the time, it works every time."

So does this long-awaited comedy sequel that supposedly nobody wanted — except for millions of fans of Ron Burgundy, Will Ferrell's puffed-up TV newscaster, and his Channel 4 teammates: scented news sleuth Fantana (Paul Rudd), thunderdolt weatherman Brick Tamland (Steve Carell) and sports clod Champ "Whammy!" Kind (David Koechner).

Now that it's here, again directed by Adam McKay and co-written with Ferrell, it must be said that Anchorman has gone from being kind of a big deal to being kind of a bloated deal.

Anchorman 2 nevertheless amuses, with your personal hilarity meter likely rating it higher if you enjoy seeing beloved characters acting even goofier.

And if you get the Blu-ray version, the abundant extras include an almost entirely new cut of the film, with a promise of 763 new jokes. **PETER HOWELL**

Emma Watson moves beyond Hermione

All grown-up. The star of new release Noah talks to Metro about her movie career, and finding a work-life balance

GABRIELA ACOSTA SILVA
Metro World News

Emma Watson with costar Douglas Booth in Noah. HANDOUT

Hermione is all grown-up now. Almost three years on since the Harry Potter movie franchise ended, Emma Watson is out to prove there is life beyond Hogwarts. "I still need to show people what I can do outside of Harry Potter. I don't think I'm quite there yet, but I'm getting there," the star of Noah tells Metro Latin America at the Spanish premiere of the new movie in Madrid.

There's been a lot of buzz surrounding Noah, both good and bad.
The producers did a lot of research and came up with many different versions of the script. The biggest problem is that in the Bible, Noah's story is like half a page. So basically, we made a three-hour movie out of three paragraphs.

Your character Ila has dreadlocks. How did that come about?
We decided to use hair extensions, which was actually quite difficult because at the time, my real hair was really short. The good thing is that we didn't have showers or bathrooms on set, so it worked out fine in the end.

How would you describe the movie?
Personally, I find Noah's story a little bit cheesy. But when the screenplay is written by someone like Darren Aronofsky you know you're going to be doing something special. I'd say the movie is more of a study of people who find themselves in a futuristic, apocalyptic world.

What is your biggest challenge right now?
Prove that I am no longer Hermione. I need to be able to be good, bad, bold or innocent in whatever role I take on. But I still need to show people what I can do outside of Harry Potter. I don't think I'm quite there yet, but I'm getting there.

What's the best thing about being in your early 20s?
I'm no longer scared to take on new roles. I'm more confident and more focused now than I used to be, and I've also learned that not everything in life is about work. Fame has the power to blur reality. That's why I chose to take a step back and go study, and gave myself the space to think about what I really wanted to do. Right now I've gone back into the acting world with a different mindset.

You're studying as well as working. How is university going?
I'll be graduating from Brown University in May and I'm glad I took the time out to study. I have the rest of my life to make movies and I feel like I learned a lot just by living alone in another country. I feel like I'm at the stage where I now have a healthy balance between my professional and personal life.

Michael Chiklis gets his freak on for scary show

Michael Chiklis will star in American Horror Story: Freak Show. GETTY IMAGES

Michael Chiklis is ready to freak out.

The actor is joining the American Horror Story family for the anthology series' fourth season, subtitled Freak Show. The Emmy-winning star of The Shield will portray the ex-husband and father of characters played by Kathy Bates and Evan Peters.

The Chiklis casting announcement came during the American Horror Story: Coven event that served as closing night of PaleyFest, which over 16 days presented casts and crews of past and present TV series, attracting thousands of fans to the Dolby Theatre.

The series' stars present for the PaleyFest panel included Peters, Angela Bassett, Jamie Brewer, Frances Conroy, Denis O'Hare Sarah Paulson, Emma Roberts and Gabourey Sidibe, with Bates herself making a surprise appearance.

Actress "Jessica (Lange) is on spring break with her grandchildren," noted series co-creator Ryan Murphy, who later revealed more season-four casting news:

Lange and "every person on this stage is coming back in some capacity," he said.

Murphy explained the setting for the upcoming series "is not a circus and is not carnival — it's a freak show," adding that it was Lange who came up with idea of her character, a German expat who is a "collector of freaks."

American Horror Story: Freak Show is set to debut this fall. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Bachelor stars get no love from Atlantic City

PAT HEALY
Metro World News in Boston

Atlantic City didn't have the kindest of receptions for Bachelor star Juan Pablo Galavis and his girlfriend, Nikki Ferrell, who came to the resort town for a special appearance at The Pool After Dark at Harrah's Resort Atlantic City on Saturday night.

Galavis and Ferrell appeared on the red carpet around midnight, and the locals were angry. Galavis was originally to sit at a VIP table next to the stage until someone (it is not known who this local hero was) threw an aluminum beer bottle at him. After that, the organizers moved him to a cabana area for his own safety.

According to reports (read: the publicist who sent me this), Ferrell joined Galavis in the VIP cabana area where they "kissed" and "held hands" until around 3 a.m, hopefully fulfilling all contractual engagements.

Read: The two didn't stick around for that long, and once they collected their paycheque, flew to Miami the next day.

One part Franco didn't play was Lohan's lover

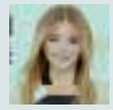
Lindsay Lohan

James Franco doesn't say the whole list is bogus, but he definitely doesn't think his name belongs on it, insisting that he has never gotten intimate with the troubled starlet.

In an interview with Los Angeles Magazine, Franco defends his decision to write about other celebrities in his new book of poetry.

"I didn't write anything bad about them," he says. "And Lindsay herself has told lies about me with her 'people she's slept with' list. So I feel like what I said is much less than what she's said."

Twitter



@ChloeGMoretz
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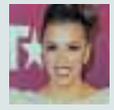
Thanks for all the B'dy wishes. You've made a newly 43 year old very happy. Cheers the noo.



@EvaLongoria
Just realized we did a little pilot called Desperate Housewives 10 years ago! March 2004!

Have you Heard? Depp is wearing a 'chick's ring'

Johnny Depp showed off a diamond engagement ring that he called a "chick's ring" on Monday - indirectly confirming rumours of his engagement to actress Amber Heard.

Asked whether he was engaged, the Pirates of the Caribbean star replied, "The fact that I'm wearing a chick's ring on my finger is probably a dead giveaway. Not very subtle." He laughed as he lifted up his left hand and displayed a single diamond on a band around his ring finger.

His comments follow months of unconfirmed reports of his engagement to actress Heard, 27, who starred alongside Kevin Costner in 3 Days to Kill released in the U.S. earlier this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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LIFE

Putting a face to autism

National Autism Awareness Month.
April is a time to educate the public about everything autism. A mom offers a glimpse into an evening with her autistic daughter

LESLEE HERSH
life@metronews.ca

Lauren, 13, was diagnosed with autism at age 4. SUBMITTED

It's Friday and the nanny has left for the weekend. Lauren is submerged in the bath, singing aloud, happy as a clam. She is always happy, and that is my salvation. All we are supposed to want for our children is for them to happy, isn't it?

I realize I forgot her PJs and a fresh towel, so I go to retrieve them from the closet in her bedroom. I come back to small drips and puddles along the bathroom floor. The shuttered bathroom window is now firmly closed, as is the vanity drawer, both of which were inadvertently left slightly open. She is lying contentedly back in the bathtub and could stay there entertaining herself for hours if I let her. Everything is in perfect order, as it must be, or chaos might ensue.

"Write down calendar!" she cries. I transcribe a visual daily calendar with activities on a chalkboard in her room, each upcoming event identified — from mealtimes and snacks to baths and sleep. This is critically important to her, so I use it as a tool to motivate her to focus on getting herself dressed. "First PJs, then calendar," I tell her. For the reward, she obliges.

The telephone rings. "Gooooodbyyye!" she shrieks before I even answer.

Lauren does not like when my attention is focused on anything but her. I tell her it is Grandma, and ask if she would like to say hello. "Eeeyeeeessss", she replies. The conversation ensues: "hiGrandmahowareyoulamgood" and is followed by a series of "eeeyeeesses" in response to unheard questions. After a quick "Goodbye, Grandpa" (who is really still Grandma), I take the phone to speak, and the "gooodbyyyes" start again, over and over until the phone is set properly back in its cradle.

I fill out her calendar while she grabs her Magna Doodle and begins furiously scribbling to calm herself down further. This is her "stim." Others living with autism — a disorder of neural development characterized by impaired social interaction and verbal and nonverbal communication, and by restricted, repetitive or stereotyped behaviour — like to rock back and forth or find other repeated actions to calm down.

"I need hugs, Mom." The squeezing motion calms her again, and she reaches for her cherished iPad and searches YouTube. For the next several hours, she positions herself in her usual way, deep within the folds of her beanbag chair, and repeatedly watches Barney, Baby Einstein, and Sesame Street episodes that she has watched nightly for years.

Next, she carefully inspects their video box covers that she has managed to source on eBay, because this too is very important to her. She has memorized every single word and song from every one of these YouTube videos and recites them, in sync with the films. The precision is almost perfect now, but this has taken several years of dedicated practice, because she cannot even carry on a conversation yet. She is 13.

I take away the iPad and prepare her for bed. Again, she babbles out loud to herself and carries on like this easily for the next two hours. She laughs out loud and then sings, completely immersed with the images and voices in her head. She laughs again when she hears Rihanna and Eminem sing they are friends with the monsters in their head, as if she understands. I suspect she does. She loves music more than anyone I know. Sometimes I stop when I think of her most favourite songs because I am afraid to believe my own thoughts.

If she does understand, and my desperate hope for "normalcy" returns, will it be crushed again by professionals telling me it is only wishful thinking?

The songs? Firework by Katy Perry, and Born This Way by Lady Gaga. Read the lyrics and — although she might not be coherent should you meet her, and certainly could not share her thoughts with you — please be the judge.

Then, try to understand the frustration that she lives with day after day, night after night, and year after year.

That is the face of autism.

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Happenings in the world of health studies

BEST HEALTH MINUTE
Bonnie Munday
Editor-in-chief
Best Health Magazine

Best Health regularly covers family health studies. Here are a few recent ones.

Rules matter: In an Australian study, parents of 4,000 children aged four and five were asked to describe their parenting style and then report every two years on their child's height and weight. Researchers found parents who set consistent rules about TV viewing, dinnertime and physical activity tended to have children with healthier weights.

Binge drinking: One in five high school students reported binge drinking (five or more drinks) recently, and one in 10 reported "extreme" binge drinking (10 drinks or more), according to an American study. Researchers say better enforcement of underage drinking laws may help.

Successful breastfeeding: A U.S. study found that women who spend on average three hours with a lactation consultant are more likely to start breastfeeding their babies and to still be breastfeeding three months later. Lactation consultants can be accessed through hospitals or public health programs. They can help with various problems.

Teens and obesity: Adolescents who are obese have a quadrupled risk of high blood pressure in adulthood than teens who are not obese, according to an American study. This is just part of the growing evidence that heart disease may start in childhood.

Aggression: Children who were spanked twice a week by their mothers at age three or five were much more likely to break rules and act aggressively by age nine than those who were not spanked, says a U.S. study of 2,000 families.

Interestingly, frequent spankings at age five from fathers resulted in lower test scores on receptive vocabulary.

Women who spend time with a lactation consultant are more likely to start breastfeeding and still be doing so three months later. ISTOCK

Music devices and hearing loss: One in six teens age 13 to 17 has preventable hearing loss. However, parents were found to be unaware of the risk of high-frequency hearing loss, which happens over time and is often related to personal music devices. Researchers say parents need to talk to teens about reasonable music volumes.

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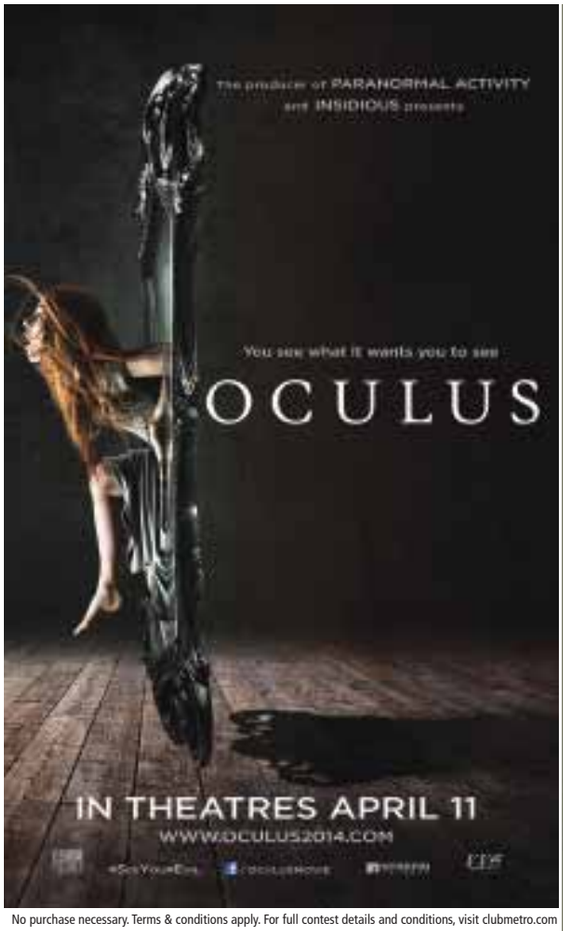
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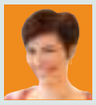
See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to see a video of Nutri-bites columnist Theresa Albert visiting a mushroom farm.

Creamy comfort without the cream

Health Solutions

Spongy, pale, small and nutrient heavy



NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

Spring marks the big thaw and the sprouting of luscious things from the earth.

All mushrooms contain trace minerals that they pull from the earth and/or the wood that they grow on. They are also high in the stress-fighting B vitamins and contain bone building vitamin D.

Quite a punch for a small, pale, spongy thing.

Many wild and specialty mushrooms are grown year-round in temperature, moisture, light and heat controlled barns.

They feed on wood logs that are specifically structured and tended to according to each species' needs.

Dried mushrooms are fairly common but can get pricey! Search the Asian section of your grocery store for a big ol' bag of shiitake shrooms rather than in the grocery section for a delicate pack of "mixed gourmet". You will get *mush* more bang for your buck. Get it?

By far, the best way to cook any fresh mushroom is in a skillet that has been heated to very high heat.

Rinse and dry the mushrooms on paper towels, add a knob of butter to the hot pan and let melt and slightly brown.

Do not crowd the pan. Allow space between each piece since the key to cooking mushrooms, so they brown rather than turn grey, is to make sure the water evaporates.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

Quick Cream of Mushroom Soup.

Forego tradition and make this filling soup with new ingredients

THERESA ALBERT
myfriendinfood.com

No one will ever know that there is yogurt and tofu in this soup instead of cream.

Together, they are excellent and filling protein.

The only trick to this soup is to keep the temperature at a simmer since boiling will turn the creaminess into graininess and then we are both busted as nutrient hiders. Don't say I didn't warn you!

This recipe serves four and takes 20 minutes to make. THERESA ALBERT

Ingredients

- 1 cup dried shiitake mushroom
- 2 cups water
- 1 tbsp cornstarch (or arrowroot powder)
- 1 cup plain, gelatin-free Greek yogurt
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 onion, chopped
- 8 oz (1 package) sliced mushroom
- 2 tsp white pepper
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 2 cups reduced sodium chicken broth
- 1 tsp tarragon
- 6 oz (1 package) silken tofu

1. Break shiitake mushrooms into smaller pieces and place in a microwavable bowl with the 2 cups of water. Cover and place in microwave for 3-4 minutes until softened. Set aside

2. Stir cornstarch into the plain Greek yogurt and set the mixture aside.

3. Brown butter in a large pot and add onions, cook for 3 minutes. Add mushrooms and brown over medium high heat for 3-4 minutes.

4. Add pepper, onion powder and stir 2 minutes. Pour reconstituted mushrooms with liquid through a strainer to catch any dirt or sand, add chicken broth and tarragon and bring to a boil to for 5 minutes.

5. Whisk in yogurt mixture and silken tofu.

6. Puree the mixture with a hand wand or in a blender, and top with cheddar when serving. THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

FLASH FOOD

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Takes two Lightning to look after one Express

NBL Canada. After limiting Thomas in Game 6 of conference final, London appear to have better handle on defending big centre

DAVE LANGFORD
dave.langford@metronews.ca

It's not easy being guarded by 300-pound Windsor Express centre DeAndre Thomas, but that's exactly what the London Lightning's Dwight McCombs has had to endure. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

It doesn't matter whether it's the first game of the season or Game 7 of the National Basketball League of Canada conference final — the story remains the same.

London Lightning must stop six-foot-eight, 300-pound Windsor Express centre DeAndre Thomas.

And after a regular season and six playoff games of trying to do so, they seem to have found the magic formula. Well, at least for one game.

Put 500 pounds up against 300.

Jermaine Johnson and Dwight McCombs weigh in at about 250 each and Thomas is well, just Thomas.

The London duo brought Thomas to a dead stop as the Lightning defeated the Express 84-79 to force Game 7 in Windsor on Tuesday night at 7 p.m. Each team has three wins, two on the road and one at home.

On Saturday, Johnson started and alternated with McCombs while all the time trying to stay in the face of Thomas, who left early in the first quarter after two quick fouls and also in the second after his third.

In all, he played a little more than 15 minutes and recorded only six points, all in first half. Johnson and McCombs, meanwhile, combined for 33 points in 42 minutes. Advantage, London.

"(Thomas) is the key. If we can get him in foul trouble, then it changes the whole dynamics of their basketball team," Lightning head coach Micheal Ray Richardson said. "Then they become a dominant outside shooting team so that's easier to guard."

Ironically, Johnson and McCombs both played against Thomas in high school, Johnson in a Las Vegas tournament and McCombs in Chicago where they both grew up.

"He's a competitor. He's strong. He does what he has to do to win," Johnson said of Thomas. "But what we are going to do is just going to match his intensity, match the play that he does. If we have the same type of game, we obviously will come out better."

McCombs said Thomas has always been "that big physical bully-type player."

"You've got to be strong and physical with him. You can't let him get to a spot and let him do what he wants to do. You've got to take him off his game. That's the key with what we did on Saturday's game. We've got to do that again (Tuesday)."

Quoted

"You've got to be strong and physical with him. You can't let him get to a spot and let him do what he wants to do. You've got to take him off his game."

The Lightning's Dwight McCombs on guarding Express centre DeAndre Thomas.

Keeping him in check

Jones helping Thomas on and off court

DeAndre Thomas was a member of the London Lightning last season, that is until he had a falling out with head coach Micheal Ray Richardson.

Now Windsor Express head coach Bill Jones has the distinction of keeping Thomas in check.

"Every day, I am committed to (Thomas). I've got a lot of love for him," Jones said earlier in the series. "I'm not just making him just a better basketball player, but also a better person to take back to his home, back to his family, back to his kids and that's something I take pride in."

Dwight McCombs of the Lightning played high school ball against Thomas in Chicago. He has heard the trash talking from Thomas before.

"It's just a whole bunch of gibberish. I think he talks just to hear himself. Even if he's talking to himself or talking to the refs, he always has to say something."

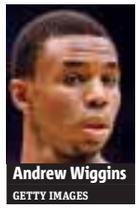
DAVE LANGFORD/METRO

No surprise here. Wiggins declares for NBA Draft

Kansas freshman Andrew Wiggins made official Monday what he's been telling folks all along: He's headed to the NBA after his only season with the Jayhawks.

The six-foot-eight forward, who was voted second-team All-America earlier in the day, is expected to go in the top three picks in the June draft.

"It wasn't an easy decision because the fans showed me so much love here," said Wiggins during a news conference. "I just wish I had more time. College goes by so fast." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Andrew Wiggins
GETTY IMAGES

Curling

Koe improves to 4-1, in second place

Canada's Kevin Koe won both of his games at the world men's curling championship on Monday to move into sole possession of second place in the round-robin standings.

Koe beat Russia 9-1 then Czech Republic 10-6 to improve to 4-1. Norway has won each of its five matches. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Sabres sign coach Nolan to an extension

Sabres coach Ted Nolan will keep building what he started in Buffalo — minus the interim tag.

Nolan is staying on as the head coach beyond this season after signing a three-year contract extension Monday. The deal comes four and a half months after Nolan returned to Buffalo for a second stint — initially, on an interim basis. And it's a reward for Nolan, who has provided a spark to a young, patchwork lineup on a last-place team. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Walking into a mess

Ted Nolan joined the Sabres after the team got off to a 4-15-1 start to the season.

4 SPORTS

Miguel Cabrera, Robinson Cano and Mike Trout will have to live up to huge expectations after signing a trio of the biggest contracts in the history of baseball. Scan the image with your Metro News app to vote on some of the worst contracts in sports.

Jays pick up where they left off in Tampa

MLB. Toronto's luck looks to have carried over from 2013 with Reyes injured, Dickey thumped in opener

Rays outfielder Desmond Jennings, left, beats the tag of Toronto Blue Jays catcher Josh Thole to give Tampa Bay a 6-0 lead during the fifth inning of Monday's season opener in St. Petersburg, Fla. CHRIS O'MEARA/GETTY IMAGES

David Price took a shutout into the eighth inning and Matt Joyce drove in three runs Monday to help the Tampa Bay Rays begin the season with a 9-2 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Price (1-0) allowed two runs and six hits over 7 1/3 innings to beat R.A. Dickey in a matchup of 2012 Cy Young Award winners. The hard-throwing lefty walked one and struck out six before a crowd of 31,042 at Tropicana Field — the Rays' ninth consecutive sellout for a home opener.

Joyce had a sacrifice fly and two-run double off Dickey (0-1), who yielded six two-out runs in five innings. Evan Longoria got the Rays going with a first-inning RBI single and Wil Myers drove in two more when he singled with the bases loaded in the second.

Price limited the Blue Jays to four singles and had only allowed two runners past second base before Maicer Izturis opened the eighth with his second hit of the day. Pinch-hitter Erik Kratz followed with a first-pitch, two-run homer over the centre-field wall.

The budget-minded Rays spent generously by their standards, boosting one of baseball's lowest payrolls from $62 million to a franchise-record of around $80 million in order to keep most of last year's AL wild-card roster together and make a run at a fifth playoff berth in seven seasons.

A decision to not trade Price — instead signing him to a $14-million, one-year deal — was a big part of that.

The 28-year-old lefty became the Rays' first 20-game winner and edged Justin Verlander in AL Cy Young balloting two years ago. He got off to a slow start in 2013, but finished strong after spending more than a month on the disabled list, leading the majors in innings, complete games and fewest walks per nine innings after July 2.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Opening day

Rays	Jays
9	2

- **Jays shortstop falls in 1st.** On Monday, Jose Reyes was gone after just one at-bat, pulling up lame in the first inning with a tight left hamstring, the same injury that sidelined him for five of the last seven spring-training games.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Detroit Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera agreed Friday to the richest contract in American sports, a $292-million, 10-year deal with the Detroit Tigers. GETTY IMAGES

AR poll results

41% Metro News readers voted Norway's multi-coloured Olympic curling pants as the ugliest in our poll of ugly sports uniforms. Here are the rest of the results:

23% Northwestern football (stars and stripes, 2013)

13% Chicago Bulls (St. Patrick's Day green sleeves, 2014)

13% New York Islanders (Capt. Highliner logo, 1995)

10% Blue Jays (with buff bird logo, 2003)

0% Toronto Raptors (purple duds, 1995)

OHL playoffs. Knights' tough guy Bell not sold on his season being over

Knights defenceman Zach Bell watches practice Monday, while hoping his OHL career has not ended quite yet. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Zach Bell had two wishes when he chose to leave professional hockey behind and come back to join the OHL's London Knights for what remained of his overage year of junior hockey.

Bell, now 21, arrived in London the same late November day that Buffalo Sabres first-round pick Nikita Zadorov returned from an early season stint with the Sabres.

Bell wasn't coming back from the NHL. He hadn't been an NHL draft choice. He was playing for the Ontario Reign of the ECHL in California. Before that, he played four seasons with the Brampton Battalion.

All Bell wanted when he joined the Knights was to experience playing hockey for Dale and Mark Hunter and to be part of a team competing for the Memorial Cup.

But the six-foot-three, 233-pound defenceman broke his right fibula in the final game of the Knights' first-round series with Windsor Spitfires last Thursday. He is not scheduled to be back this season, but this is Zach Bell we are talking about.

"Just playing here for a couple of months, you have no idea how much you learn and just what a pleasure it is to play for those guys," Bell said while watching practice Monday.

"Just having them go to bat for you means so much and they know what my character is like and the kind of guy I am and they know I'm going to work hard and hopefully, if I play my cards right, come back and get that second thing off the bucket list."

Bell said "it's not the storybook ending" he wanted, but he does hold out hope he will play again this season.

"As soon as I went down (sliding awkwardly in the boards), I knew," Bell said. "I'm a pretty tough guy, I block shots, I play a pretty hearty game, so as soon as I went down I knew it was something pretty bad."

Bell said some things won't change as he goes through rehab.

"I'm still going to be a part of this team, just like I was on the ice every day. Still going to criticize guys if they need to hear it. Still going to be loud in the room, still going to go to video. Still going to be the same guy."

And he will be there when the Knights begin their second-round series Friday in Guelph against the Storm.

"To end up here for my last year is unbelievable and like I said, I have no regrets."

DAVE LANGFORD/METRO

Gonzalez, Ausmus have happy debuts

Alex Gonzalez runs to first base after hitting his game-winning single on Monday in Detroit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On a day of dandy Detroit debuts, Alex Gonzalez helped Brad Ausmus start his tenure as Tigers manager with a win.

Gonzalez lined an RBI single off Greg Holland in the bottom of the ninth, giving the Tigers a 4-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals on Monday in Ausmus' first game since replacing Jim Leyland. Victor Martinez homered for Detroit, and Justin Verlander was sharp aside from a three-run fourth inning.

"There's two things that could have spoiled opening day for me," Ausmus said. "One, if we lost. And two, if the sun wasn't out. Because for me opening day, the sun is out, fans are having fun, they're eating their popcorn, drinking their beer. The energy is higher."

Opening day

Tigers	Royals
4	3

Kansas City lost its sixth straight opener.

Ausmus was upstaged a bit by another newcomer on a bright, pleasant day in downtown Detroit.

Gonzalez was acquired by the Tigers in late March following an injury to shortstop Jose Iglesias. Detroit is just hoping he can fill in competently, and Gonzalez did not impress at first. His error in the fourth helped the Royals score an extra run, but he made up for that with a tying triple in the seventh. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The more others try to make you change your mind about something the more you must refuse to be moved. You know what is right and what is wrong, so make your own decision and stick to it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
There is no point getting worked up over something you can't do much about. You may not be able to change things on a social or political level however you can change things on a personal level.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Something you have been worrying about for quite a while will fade in significance today and that's good. But has the cause of the worry actually gone? You need to find out.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If someone you have feelings for seems unresponsive today don't think it means you are drifting apart. Most likely they just need to spend some time alone to think things through.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may want to be friends with everyone but you need to be discerning. There are some people who you will never get along with because you are on different emotional and intellectual levels.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Others will be generous with you if you are generous with them. Let friends and colleagues know you are willing to work alongside them. Teamwork is essential now, in all areas.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There may be a thousand and one things you want to do today but Jupiter, planet of success but also excess, warns you must not to take on too much. Ask loved ones nicely to do more things for you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Some of what you hear over the next 24 hours may be less than complimentary but it is of no real importance, so don't let it upset your equilibrium.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may hear something about your money situation that brings a smile to your face today but don't be too hasty. There is a chance you are being misled, so don't go on a spending spree.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something you have been working on for some time needs to be left alone for a while. You have got so involved with it that other areas of your life are being neglected.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There is no point getting annoyed about things beyond your control – you know that already. So why are you allowing what is a minor event to cause major shockwaves in your life? Get over it – now.

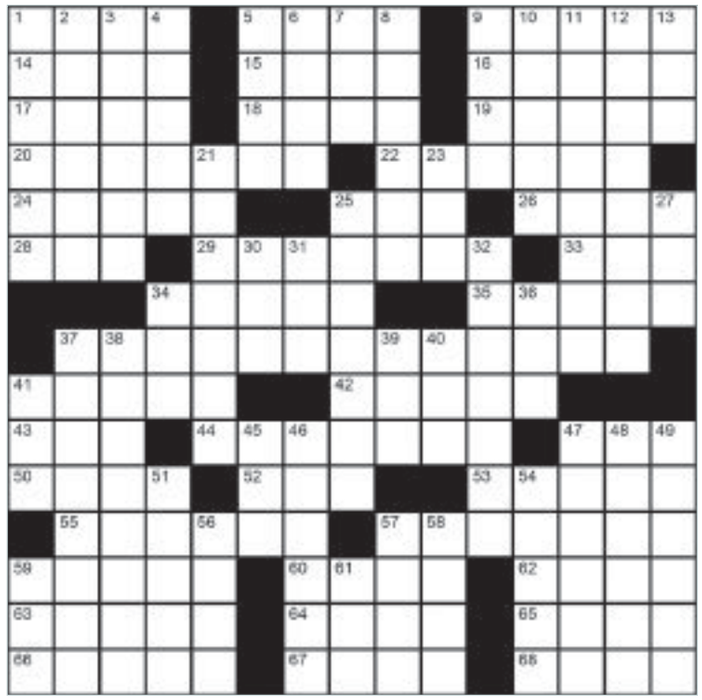
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You have some important personal issues to deal with, so let your friends know they may be seeing less of you for a while. Get your emotional life in order, then go and have fun.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

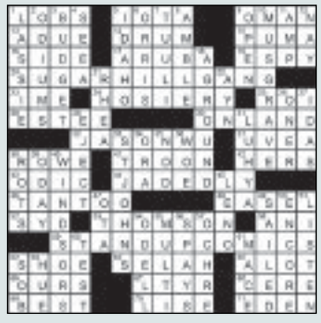
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Star__ Tuna
5. Kitschy
9. Kate __ (Purse designer)
14. Quebec: Saint-Louis-du-__! __!
15. Actress Jessica
16. "__ __ be true?"
17. Prefix to 'culture'
18. Stuff
19. Barter
20. Northwestern Ont. town, Fort __
22. Some Honda cars
24. Fashion: Oscar de la __
25. Bird beak
26. Cries
28. "Rat!"
29. Informer, to inmates
33. Pecan, for one
34. "__, __!" (Laura's catchphrase on "The Dick Van Dyke Show")
35. Peter, in Spain
37. 01/04: 3 wds.
41. Decrease
42. "That's just great."
43. Evita's land, for short
44. One of the three 'Rs' in green living
47. "Law & Order: _ _ _"
50. Alone
52. Ums, etc.
53. Bits
55. The Arctic __
57. Canadian interior designer Ms. Olson
59. Play hockey, also do this
60. "It's such ___!" (I'm so happy!)
62. ___ ___ (As per the broadcast of TV shows)
63. Eva __, Madonna's "Evita" (1996) role
64. Bugs Bunny, e.g.
65. "___ It Bad": Tune by Usher
66. Toronto: CN Tower's locale, 301 __ Street West
67. Edmonton's CFL team's website, __.com
68. "Can you give ___ hints at all?" (I need help guessing!)

Down
1. Egypt's second largest pyramid
2. "My sentiments exactly.": 2 wds.
3. Reduced
4. Contaminate
5. Coop
6. Beers
7. Academic letters
8. Purolator delivery
9. Item on Eugene Levy's resume
10. Ms. Hilton
11. 1997 snake horror movie
12. Alberta town
13. Parisian season
21. Store job
23. There: Latin
25. "It's __ business but my own!"
27. Pou __ (Vantage point)
30. Li'l old MTV show
31. "That hurts!", comics-style
32. Beatles manager Brian
34. Food fragment
36. Mr. Asner's
37. Infomercial exercise device: 2 wds.
38. Michel __: "Rain-showers" Montreal-born musician
39. Folklore creature
40. West Coast basketball team [acronym]
41. Some batteries
45. Fitting-here fish
46. Produce
47. Tightwad
48. Quebec pastry brand
49. k-os hit: "Man I __ __ Be"
51. British songstress Beth
54. Extreme execration
56. Rapper 50
57. Chef
58. Writer Ms. Rand's
59. Sunscreen no.
61. __ Louis (Popular cakes-in-a-box product by #48-Down)

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4	7	3		9			8
	9	8						4
3			7					
9	1				8			
	6	5				1	2	
			6				9	5
					5			6
5						3	7	
4			1		7	2	5	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	9	8	4	5	6	7	2
4	8	6	2	1	7	3	9	5
5	2	7	3	6	9	4	8	1
7	4	1	6	2	8	9	5	3
2	5	3	4	9	1	8	6	7
9	6	8	7	5	3	1	2	4
8	7	2	1	3	6	5	4	9
3	9	4	5	8	2	7	1	6
6	1	5	9	7	4	2	3	8

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